

# MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 65, No. 46 November 16, 2023 \$1



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# Stop U.S.-backed Israeli terror

## War crimes: Bombing Gaza hospitals

The edited appeal was released by Hamas – Islamic Resistance Movement – on Nov. 11, 2023.

It's time for the Arab and Islamic states, our nation, and the free people of the world to act now to stop the aggression and immediately rescue the hospitals in the Gaza Strip and open the Rafah crossing for the entry of essential human life necessities.

The siege of hospitals in the Gaza Strip, Israel's barbaric continuous bombardment with all types of U.S. weapons, the prevention of fuel, water, food, internet, communication and transport means, and all essentials of human life from reaching patients, the wounded, and displaced people, is a heinous crime against humanity and a genocide for which everyone who stands helpless to immediately intervene to stop this horrifying massacre and humanitarian disaster bears moral and political responsibility.

In the face of the humanitarian catastrophe affecting the health sector in the Gaza Strip, ongoing for 35 continuous days, and the martyrdom of more than 11,000 people, mostly women and children, and 27,000 wounded and injured, we urgently call for the following:

Firstly: Leaders and rulers of our Arab and Islamic nation, meeting today at the joint Arab-Islamic summit in Riyadh, in the name of Arab and Islamic brotherhood bonds, to make a historic and decisive decision to immediately stop the Zionist aggression on the Gaza Strip, and to employ all the Arab and Islamic power resources to enforce that by pressuring the U.S. administration, which bears direct responsibility for the genocidal war that our people in the Gaza Strip are subjected to.

Secondly: Form committees in all medical, humanitarian relief, and parliamentary specialties, and head immediately towards the Egyptian-Palestinian Rafah crossing, challenging the Zionist occupation, to bring in all relief, medical, food, and fuel materials to rescue all hospitals in the Gaza Strip, which have gone out of service or will go out of service, before they turn into mass graves and massacres that shame humanity. □



Protest at the residence of President Biden, Wilmington, Delaware, Nov. 11, 2023.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

**The Red Nation speaks on Gaza**

**Lenin on emancipation of women**

**SAG-AFTRA wins big gains**

**Portland teachers historic strike**

**'Shut it down for Palestine'**

**Gaza exposes limits of U.S. power**

**U.S., Israeli eyes on Gaza's gas fields**

**Unions obstruct arms supplies to Israel**

**Racist censure of Rep. Rashida Tlaib**

**Defend the right to resistance**

## Cairo, Egypt Int'l delegation demands full opening of Rafah border for aid

The following press release was issued on Nov. 12. For questions, contact:

- Susan Abulhawa: +1.267.391.5386
- Suzanne Adely: +1.773.510.7446

We are an international delegation of writers, lawyers, journalists, activists, students and organizers who arrived in Cairo, Egypt, this week with the goal of reaching the Rafah border crossing with Gaza to exert pressure to open the border for the immediate entry and sustained flow of urgent humanitarian aid — food, water, fuel and medical aid to 2.3 million Palestinians facing starvation and death as genocidal Israeli air-strikes continuously pound defenseless civilians.

In response to the Palestinian and Arab calls for civil society to challenge Israel's deadly occupation by heading immediately towards the Egyptian-Palestinian crossing to bring urgent humanitarian relief to 2.3 million people, we have just submitted a request to the Egyptian authorities for permission to travel to Rafah.

Israel's wanton bombing has killed over 11,000 people, a shocking number of whom are children who were gruesomely buried alive in their bombed homes or had their bodies shredded by these bombs. Thousands more remain unreachable under the rubble and over 27,000 are injured.

Water, food, fuel and medical supplies have been cut off, with only a trickle of aid trucks making it through the Rafah crossing. The healthcare sector has completely collapsed, either through direct Israeli bombing or from lack of medicine and electricity to treat patients. Israel's targeting of civilians



A truck with humanitarian aid destined for Palestine at the Rafah border.

includes destruction of more than 50% of homes in Gaza, nearly all bakeries, water treatment plants, schools, clinics, and other infrastructures for life.

As Palestinians in Gaza teeter on the brink of life, without sustenance or shelter, we call for an immediate end to Israel's barbaric bombing and invasion of Gaza. We call on the world to intervene in any and every capacity to end the ongoing genocidal attacks against a defenseless civilian society, which has been unrelentingly terrorized for 35 days.

We urge all peoples and governments to act urgently to end this horror. There are hundreds of aid trucks currently parked in the desert waiting to enter the Rafah crossing. We demand they be allowed to reach Palestinians whose needs are dire and desperate.

Stop Israel's genocidal war on Gaza Now!  
Open the Rafah border Now! □

## From Turtle Island to Palestine, the struggle continues at 2023 NDOM

By K. James

What are the foundational myths of the U.S.? Who created them, and who do they erase and harm? For the past 53 years, United American Indians of New England (UAINE) and supporters have gathered on so-called Thanksgiving Day in Plymouth, Massachusetts, to ask these questions, confront settler mythologies, and commemorate a National Day of Mourning (NDOM) for the Indigenous people murdered by settler colonialism and imperialism worldwide, from Turtle Island to Palestine.

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The National Day of Mourning protest was founded by Wamsutta Frank James, an Aquinnah Wampanoag tribal member. In 1970, Wamsutta had been invited by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to give a speech at a banquet commemorating the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the Pilgrims.

The organizers of the banquet imagined that Wamsutta would give an appreciative and complimentary speech, singing the praises of the U.S. settler-colonial project and thanking the Pilgrims for bringing "civilization" to the Wampanoag.

However, the speech that Wamsutta wrote — which was based on historical fact instead of the hollow fiction portrayed in the Thanksgiving myth — was a far cry from complimentary.

### Indigenous pride and power

In his speech, Wamsutta not only named atrocities committed by the Pilgrims, but also reflected upon the fate of the Wampanoag at the hands of settlers. The speech contained a powerful message of Native American pride. "Our spirit refuses to die," wrote Wamsutta. "Yesterday we

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# Honor Day of Mourning

## Support Workers World

Workers World honors Indigenous peoples on their commemoration of the 54th National Day of Mourning on Nov. 23, so-called "Thanksgiving." On that day, Native people honor their ancestors and tell their true histories as the original inhabitants of this land, while exposing European colonialists' massive crimes against Indigenous people, including theft of their lands and food sources, attempted obliteration of their cultures, racism, oppression and genocide.

In 1970, United American Indians of New England gathered in Plymouth, Massachusetts, site of the original "Pilgrim" invasion, and observed the first National Day of Mourning. Only Indigenous people speak at this solemn annual event.

WW has attended the National Day of Mourning commemorations every year since 1981 and has reported firsthand on these events in our pages.

WW applauds Indigenous peoples in the U.S., and globally, who fight oppression and lead struggles to save lands, forests and rivers from capitalist destruction. Our newspaper hails courageous Indigenous water, land and forest protectors who lead these movements, often putting their lives on the line to confront rapacious corporations which harm the planet in their reckless drive for profits.

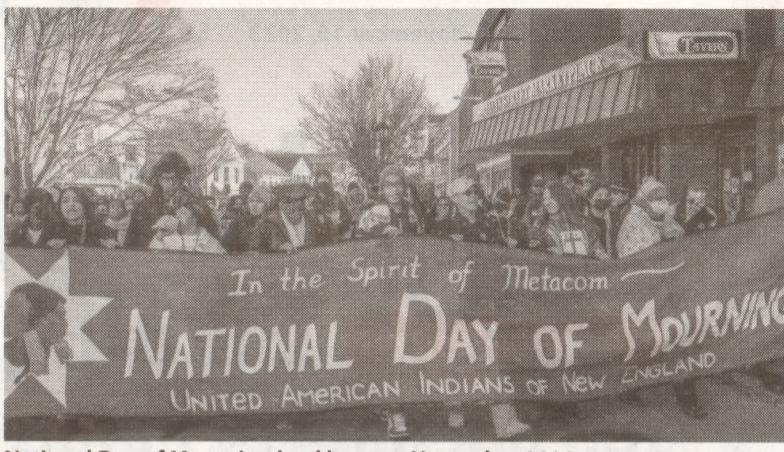
We honor those who have lost their lives in these struggles.

### WW needs your help!

Workers World calls on our readers and sustainers to support these movements and honor the National Day of Mourning.

If you appreciate our coverage, it's time to join the Workers World Supporter Program. WW depends on its readers' backing. The program was established 46 years ago so readers could help WW publish anti-racist, working-class truth, and build campaigns needed to fight against capitalism and for revolutionary change leading to socialism.

Since the early 1990s, the fund has sponsored workers.org, where news and analysis of global and domestic



National Day of Mourning lead banner, November 2022 WW PHOTO: RACHEL DUELL

issues and struggles are posted continually. The website is a resource for political activists. It contains first-hand accounts by writer-activists in many countries, translated by our staff. Timely articles written by organizers keep the newspaper current on union drives and workers' strikes, as well as anti-war, anti-imperialist, anti-racist, women's, LGBTQ2S+ and other progressive movements.

While WW's staff members are volunteers, the 12 issues printed, shipped and mailed each year and the website incur expenses. Although many online publications require payments to read their articles, WW does not. **Our articles are free to all readers.**

### Join the WW Supporter Program!

Can you donate \$50, \$100, \$200 a year or more? Donating \$50 or more will entitle you to receive 12 print issues a year, email links to articles posted online and, upon request, a copy of the book "What Road to Socialism?" (Download WW books at workers.org/books)

By donating to this fund, you can help get class truth to more readers. Write checks, either monthly or annually, to Workers World. Include your name, address and email; write "Supporter Program" on the memo line. Mail to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001.

We appreciate your help in building Workers World. □

## Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the never-ending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on immigrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and

worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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# From Turtle Island to Palestine, the struggle continues at 2023 NDOM

*Continued from page 1*

walked the woodland paths and sandy trails. Today we must walk the macadam highways and roads. We are uniting ... We stand tall and proud; and before too many moons pass, we'll right the wrongs we have allowed to happen to us."

When state officials saw an advance copy of Wamsutta's speech, they refused to allow him to deliver it, saying that the speech was too "inflammatory."

The speech contained a revolutionary spirit, clearly inspired by the fledgling "Red Power Movement," which demanded equal rights and self-determination for Native Americans. This without a doubt frightened the state officials, whose minds were likely drawn to the 1969 Occupation of Alcatraz, a 19-month-long protest involving Native Americans and supporters taking over the abandoned federal penitentiary on Alcatraz Island in California.

The Occupation of Alcatraz was the first intertribal protest that garnered national attention, and it had struck fear into the hearts of the ruling class because it was becoming clear that Native Americans, like African Americans and other oppressed peoples, were saying "no more."

#### Attempted suppression of defiant speech

Clinging to the Thanksgiving mythology, the state officials told Wamsutta that they would write a more "appropriate" speech for the banquet, but he refused to have words put into his mouth. His suppressed speech was printed in newspapers across the country, and Wamsutta decided that something had to be done to ensure that the truth about the Pilgrims was still heard. He and other local Native activists began to plan a protest.

The flier for this protest, which was circulated among Native people nationwide, read, "What do we have to be thankful

for? The United American Indians of New England have declared Thanksgiving Day to be a National Day of Mourning for Native Americans."

#### First National Day of Mourning

Members of the American Indian Movement (AIM), as well as Native people from all over the country, traveled to Plymouth, Massachusetts, for the very first National Day of Mourning. On Nov. 27, 1970, a crowd of around 200 Native Americans and supporters gathered on Cole's Hill in Plymouth. Native American leaders made speeches about the deplorable conditions Native Americans faced, the genocidal actions of the United States government, and the devastation caused by the Pilgrims.

The protesters went down to the waterfront, where they buried Plymouth Rock in sand and painted it red. A small group of protesters made their way to the Mayflower II, a replica of the original Mayflower, and boarded the ship. They climbed the rigging and tore down the flag of Saint George, the patron saint of England. They also tossed a wax statue of Christopher Jones, the captain of the Mayflower, overboard.

One AIM leader would later say of the first National Day of Mourning that it "is a day American Indians won't forget. We went to Plymouth for a purpose: to mourn since the landing of the Pilgrims the repression of the American Indian; and to indict the hypocrisy of a system which glorifies that repression. We fulfilled that purpose and gained a spirit of unity that spread across the land." ("Russell Means Recounts NDOM, 1971.")

#### Mourning, condemning and protesting the oppression of Indigenous peoples

Every year since the first protest in 1970, protesters have gathered on Cole's Hill to observe a National Day of

Mourning. At the 1972 National Day of Mourning, a young woman was attacked by the police for wearing an upside-down U.S. flag draped over her shoulders. At the 1974 National Day of Mourning, Wamsutta and protesters liberated the bones of a 16-year-old Wampanoag girl from the Pilgrim Hall Museum.

In 1997, National Day of Mourning organizers and protesters were attacked and brutalized by the Plymouth police, who arrested 25 protesters. The resulting court case and settlement led to the installation of two plaques, one that marked the origin and purpose of the National Day of Mourning, and the other commemorating Metacomet (King Philip), who led resistance against English settlers in 1675 and 1676.

Protesters will gather on Cole's Hill on so-called Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 23) this year as they have for the past 53 years. This year marks the first time that there will be a Palestinian speaker at National Day of Mourning, affirming Native American solidarity with the Indigenous Palestinians as they resist 75 years of settler occupation, apartheid, oppression and genocide.

Other key issues that will be addressed include the Missing and Murdered

Indigenous Women, Girls and Two Spirit People (MMIWG2S+) epidemic, the ongoing anti-colonial struggle in Puerto Rico, and clemency for long-time Native American political prisoner Leonard Peltier.

As Moonanum James, son of Wamsutta Frank James and the late co-leader of UAINE, said to the crowd at the 2019 National Day of Mourning:

"We will continue to gather on this hill until corporations and the U.S. military stop polluting the Earth. Until we dismantle the brutal apparatus of mass incarceration. We will not stop until the oppression of our Two-Spirit siblings is a thing of the past. When the homeless have homes. When children are no longer taken from their parents and locked in cages. When the Palestinians reclaim the homeland and the autonomy Israel has denied them for the past 70 [now 75] years. When no person goes hungry or is left to die, because they have little or no access to quality health care. When insulin is free. When union busting is a thing of the past. Until then, the struggle will continue."

From Turtle Island to Palestine, Colonization is a Crime!

Free Palestine! Free Leonard Peltier! Land Back! □



## The Red Nation's message to the Free Palestine National March

*The following speech was delivered to 300,000 pro-Palestine marchers by The Red Nation co-founder Dr. Melanie Yazzie and was written by members of The Red Nation. The speech is also available in Arabic and Spanish at therednation.org. Video of the speech is posted at The Red Nation's YouTube channel. (youtu.be/biI-fgB\_xg)*

fulfill our ancestors' dreams by standing with Palestine today!

Palestine is the tip of the spear that steers us all towards liberation. Settler colonialism holds nothing back and, yet, it cannot defeat those whose cries for liberation resound louder than any bomb they can drop on us!

Colonialism is failing, crumbling under the weight of its own conceit. The fort is breached and the wagons are burning! The end of colonialism nears because the end of colonialism is inevitable!

The United States wages endless wars to maintain its position as the supreme settler colony of the world. Ours is the oldest struggle against U.S. colonialism. Now is the chance to redeem your humanity, settlers of our stolen lands, by standing with Palestine and standing with us. The end of U.S. imperialism is the only solution — for us, for Palestine, and for the world!

Mark our words. The humble people of the Earth have spoken! There is no place for colonialism on Mother Earth! For the Earth to live, colonialism must die! A free Palestine frees us all to build a future of peace and equality. Today, we join our Palestinian relatives in a righteous struggle to author a new society.

To our relatives in Gaza, we say Ké bee nihidzil — together we are strong! May our message carry far across the sea: Gaza, Gaza, you will see, Palestine will truly be free. Until liberation for all!

Ahéhee! □

## National Day of Mourning

Thurs., Nov. 23, 2023

12 noon – Cole's Hill (above Plymouth Rock)  
Plymouth, Massachusetts

Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world!  
From Turtle Island to Palestine, Colonialism is a crime!  
Free Leonard Peltier!

Since 1970, Indigenous people and their allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the U.S. "Thanksgiving" holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims and other European settlers.

Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands and the erasure of Native cultures. Participants in the National Day of Mourning honor Indigenous ancestors and Native resilience. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection, as well as a protest against the racism and oppression that Indigenous people continue to experience worldwide.

Join us as we continue to create a true awareness of Native peoples and history. Help shatter the untrue image of the Pilgrims and the unjust system based on racism, settler-colonialism, war, sexism, anti-LGBTQ2S+ bigotry and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth that they and other European settlers introduced to these shores.

While many supporters will attend in person, we will also Live Stream the event from Plymouth at [tinyurl.com/NDOM2023LiveStream](http://tinyurl.com/NDOM2023LiveStream).

Mask up for solidarity!

No sit-down social, but light box lunches will be available.

#NDOM2023  
#NoThanksNoGiving



United American Indians of New England

(decolonizing since 1970)

Website: [uaine.org](http://uaine.org) Contact: [info@uaine.org](mailto:info@uaine.org) Donate: [bit.ly/DonateUAINE2023](https://bit.ly/DonateUAINE2023)  
[facebook.com/groups/UAINE](https://facebook.com/groups/UAINE) Facebook event: [@NDOM2023](https://www.facebook.com/events/@NDOM2023)

NDOM 2023 will again provide sign language interpretation on Cole's Hill.

# The occupation's crimes against prisoners have exceeded all limits

*The following statement was issued by the Office of Martyrs, Prisoners, and Wounded from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, Nov. 10, 2023.*

The Office of Martyrs, Prisoners, and Wounded of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, in a statement issued on Fri., Nov. 10, affirmed that the occupation's crimes against Palestinian prisoners have reached indescribable levels of brutality and savagery, constituting a series of war crimes and crimes against humanity in all their forms.

The statement mentioned that since Oct. 7, the occupation forces escalated their arrest campaigns, leading to the arrests of more than 2,300 Palestinians, including the elderly, children, and women. In these arrest operations, brutal tactics were used, including detaining

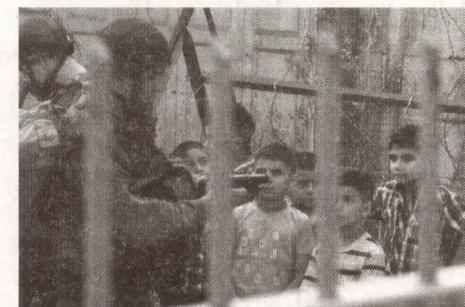
the relatives of those targeted for arrest as hostages, among others.

The statement also clarified that the interrogation procedures have become another link in the chain of war crimes, ranging from beatings, mistreatment, and brutal torture, to threats of raping female prisoners and relatives of prisoners, and harassment of minor girls by the enemy army soldiers, culminating in the execution of many prisoners during the vengeful and brutal torture rituals that the occupation insists on calling interrogation.

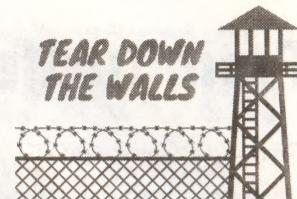
The statement emphasized that the occupation forces no longer care about hiding or justifying their crimes, but continue them arrogantly. The arrests now include lawyers, who are one of the few means of defending the rights of prisoners and learning about their conditions.

The statement noted that the execution

of prisoners in jails by the occupation authorities continues with international cover and silence. The insistence of the International Red Cross and many international organizations concerned ignore the reality of these conditions and their excuse that the occupation prevents them from visiting the prisoners and learning about their conditions is an argument against them, not for them, confirming



Imprisoned Palestinian youth



the ongoing complicity of international institutions in the comprehensive massacre and genocide waged by the occupation against our people.

The statement called on the relevant international institutions to immediately impose sanctions on the occupation, expel it from all international bodies concerned with human rights, boycott and internationally isolate it, and impose the severest sanctions against it.

The statement mentioned that it is impossible to equate the noble humanitarian treatment of the Palestinian resistance towards the occupation's prisoners of all categories, and their earnest efforts to preserve them despite the brutal bombing targeted at them by the occupation state, with the treatment of this criminal state. □

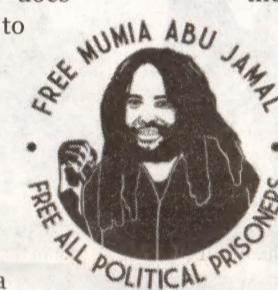
## War against the fleas

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

Perhaps Israel's most respected statesman, former diplomat Abba Eban, once said, "Nobody does Israel any service by proclaiming its right to exist." That was then, in 1981. Now is a new age, a new era. A time of Israel's swing to the far right wing. It is once again a time of war, but to say it's a war of Hamas versus Israel is somewhat disingenuous.

For there has been a war between Palestine and Israel for, at the very least, 75 years, and at most, a century. And this is not a war around religion or between faiths or gods. It's a war for that which is no longer being produced — land.

Kudos to the authors of the "Except for Palestine: The Limits of Progressive Politics," by Marc Lamont Hill



and Mitchell Plitnick. The book, using history instead of myths, shows how the Palestinians received exceptions to the rules while Zionists got every break. They showed the emergence of the rightist Likud party and the ideas proposed by Ziv Javotinsky.

They led right to this moment in Israeli history of war and iron walls. The book, "Except for Palestine," shows how U.S. foreign policy was driven by domestic policy. And how both major parties played bipartisan footsie to make Israel a regional superpower in the Middle East.

And while Hamas may have used a few low-tech hang gliders, have you ever seen one engage with an F-14? I don't think so.

What most U.S. news agencies are loath to address is the realm of international law, especially when one considers

the law of occupied territories and the right of the occupied to resist their occupation by any necessary means. The Palestinians are the Indigenous people of the region.

They are thus equivalent to the Navajo, Apache and Seminoles of the West, subjected to the settler colonialism of the invaders. It is they who have a right to exist. Is that not so? The Indigenous of the U.S. were sent to the worst lands available, so called "reservations." The Palestinians have been ghettoized, walled off by walls that violate international law, humiliated and subjected to a century of dispossession and military repression.

Their decades of negotiations have led to nothing but more of the same. They want what all people want, freedom.

With love, not fear. This is Mumia Abu-Jamal.  
Prison Radio, Nov. 1, 2023.  
(tinyurl.com/2hbhdab4) □

## A plea from U.S. jails: Stop killing us

By Joe Piette  
Philadelphia

Read the entire article at [workers.org](http://workers.org)

Robert Divine, 52, died 2/14/23; Steven Smith, 38, died 4/15/21; Courtney Salmon, 31, died 5/25/21; Quincy Di-Harris, 25, died 8/27/21; Kenneth Harris, 69, died 6/7/23; Bass Wykeem, 33, died 8/26/22 — these are just six out of at least 46 people who died in Philadelphia County jails since 2020.

Many community meetings and protests over the last three years outside City Hall and at the City's four prisons criticized rodent infestations, small food portions, the use of solitary confinement, severe staffing shortages and other inhumane policies in Philadelphia jails. A Sept. 28 rally outside City Hall raised the demand that a new community oversight board be appointed.

Organized by the Abolitionist Law Center (ALC) and other groups, participants carried placards with the name, age and date of death of each person who died inside the City's jails since 2020.

After the rally, participants went inside to visit each City Council member to urge passage of legislation aimed at enhancing oversight of Philadelphia's jails. The City Charter change would create a nine-person board, with the council president appointing five members and the mayor selecting four. The board's exact powers and duties would be detailed in a future ordinance.

Funding to staff an Office of Prison

Oversight would be tied to the jail system's budget. John Thompson, a formerly incarcerated man who now works for the ALC, said the board should include mental health experts, members of the community and at least two formerly incarcerated people. No former correctional officers should be appointed, he told the rally.

Activists want City Council to hold a hearing in November, after which a two-thirds majority vote by the Council would place the board's creation on the ballot as a question in the spring 2024 primary election.

### Concentration camps for the poor

Jails are where people are kept after being arrested, if they cannot afford bail, until their trial. Jail is populated by poor people without the funds to post bail and those denied bail by a judge. Those who are found guilty and sentenced to two years or more are sent to a state prison. In Philadelphia's jails, 90% of detainees are people of color, 90% have not been convicted of a crime but are awaiting trial and 40% have a mental illness.

A PrisonLegalNews.org article in August 2022 reported that, "Philadelphia's jails appear to be failing on nearly every level, from staffing and security to medical and mental health care, occupational opportunities, library and recreation time, and even the provision of the most basic human needs such as food and sanitation."

"The crisis that unfolded with the onset of the pandemic in the spring of 2020 has sparked ongoing protests by the families

of those incarcerated, as well as public defenders, community members, and prisoners' rights advocates. It has also caused a series of uprisings by prisoners themselves."



Philadelphia rally, Sept. 28, 2023.

Jail. (nbcstandiego.com, July 26)

"Because a person is sick ... that doesn't mean that they should receive a death sentence and that's what's happening here," said Norma Nelson, whose

brother Donald suffered a diabetic seizure, got into a fight and was killed in a cell just two hours after arriving at Santa Rita Jail. "People who are in need of medical, mental health care, behavioral health care — they're just not getting it here." (cbsnews.com/sanfrancisco, Apr. 1)

Community activists across the U.S. have proposed various solutions to the epidemic of deaths while in county jails. Many protest participants believe mass incarceration should be abolished. But what do we who have loved ones behind bars do until then?

Philadelphia activists, many of whom are formerly incarcerated or relatives of those who died in jail, are hoping more community oversight of the City's jails will improve the chances that anyone placed in jail will come out alive. □

# Vladimir Lenin: 'Only socialism would bring emancipation for women'

By Phebe Eckfeldt

The liberation and leadership of women was a cornerstone of Vladimir Lenin's thinking and actions as the leader of the Bolshevik Revolution. Revolution could not have been complete without it. It was an integral part of it, and he talked and wrote about it a great deal.

Lenin wanted to know what women wanted and needed and what issues were on their minds. He consulted with them often and regularly. He would meet with women leaders at their offices and homes or he would ask them to meet with him at his office. Lenin consulted with the leading women revolutionaries of the day — Inessa Armand, Alexandra Kollontai, Nadezhda Krupskaya, Rosa Luxemburg and Clara Zetkin.

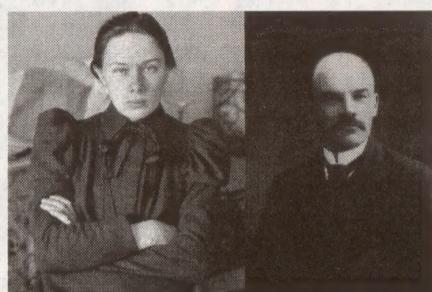
This article focuses on the preface to the book "The Emancipation of Women," which was written in 1933 by Krupskaya, Lenin's spouse and partner, 10 years after his death.

Russian women were some of the most oppressed people in the country due to their living in a patriarchal society. Lenin stated, "only the victory of the working class would bring emancipation to women workers and peasants." He closely studied the working conditions and lives of women factory workers, peasants and women who produced handicrafts (objects made completely by hand or by using only simple tools). At that time, peasants were moving from farms to factories.

Krupskaya said that Lenin explains in his book "The Development of Capitalism in Russia" that women's work "at factories broadens their outlook, makes them more cultured and independent, helps them break the shackles of patriarchal life." He explained that large-scale industry would create the basis for the emancipation of women.

#### Soviet Union enshrined women's rights

Lenin called for the complete equality of men and women to be written into the Bolshevik Party's program, and it was. The Soviet government codified laws that established the full equality of rights for women and men.



Nadezhda Krupskaya and Vladimir Lenin

The Russian bourgeoisie was telling women to use birth control because their children were doomed to poverty and a life lacking in food, heat and other basic human needs. But Lenin said: No! Children are our future, and we are fighting against poverty when we fight against capitalism and we will win.

Lenin wanted all women to be able to work for the benefit of society. He worked hard to draw the most oppressed women into the work of running the country, including sex workers. He knew they needed to be taught how to govern — how to administer the state; this was called social work. Lenin stressed that all workers needed training in this, and he aimed to break from the view that only the rich could do this.

Many women died in action defending the newly formed Bolshevik government during the Civil War which took place from November 1917 until June 1923.

The Bolshevik government began to raise the question of collectivization of agriculture and communes and the struggle against the kulaks — wealthy peasants who exploited other peasants and loaned money.

Collectivization of agriculture meant consolidating individual farms into collective farms, combining small farms into one large one — which came under state ownership and control. Farmers worked together and made decisions together about these farms.

Krupskaya wrote: "Small scale farming ... shackled women, tied them to the individual households, and narrowed their outlook; they were in fact slaves of their husbands, who often beat them cruelly."

Lenin often quoted peasants

who used to say: "Each man for himself and God for all." He apparently often referred to this expression to show the psychology of a small farmer.

Collectivization, said Krupskaya, "undermines the peasants' isolation, and the hold of religion and emancipates women." And she said that Lenin emphasized that "only socialism would bring emancipation for women."

The Congress of Collective Farmers showed that Lenin's words were "coming true," said Krupskaya. Many women were among the delegates. Women were learning to govern and to fight the kulaks — and religion was fading. She wrote that political consciousness was developing and would help to get rid of old prejudices.

*"The Emancipation of Women," from the writings of V.I. Lenin, was first published in 1934 by International Publishers.*

Kathy Durkin contributed to this article.

To honor 100 years since Vladimir Lenin's death

## International Assembly Against Imperialism

Sun. Jan. 21, 2024

11 am – 5 pm

Registration: 10 am (coffee, music, displays)

Malcolm X & Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial & Educational Center  
3940 Broadway, at West 165<sup>th</sup> St.  
Washington Heights, New York City

Workers World Party invites you to an International Assembly Against Imperialism on Jan. 21, 2024. The U.S.- and NATO-instigated war in Ukraine, the U.S.-backed Zionist genocidal war on Palestine and the growing danger of the extension of the war into Asia will be high on the agenda of this anti-imperialist assembly, as well as the global class struggle against capitalist exploitation, racism and fascism, the liberation of Puerto Rico, the defense of Cuba, the climate crisis, and the liberation of people with disabilities, women, gender-oppressed and LGBTQIA2S+ people.

Contact: lenincentennial2024@gmail.com for pre-registration, housing & more information

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# SAG-AFTRA strike wins big gains

By Martha Grevatt

After 118 days on strike, members of Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists will be voting on a tentative agreement. Picket lines are down and SAG-AFTRA members are starting to return to work. Voting begins Nov. 14 and will conclude 21 days later.

The production studios have agreed to a

package of wage and benefits improvements valued at over \$1 billion. The lowest-paid members will see an immediate pay raise of 11%.

The contract increases residuals — payments made every time a show is played as a repeat — for streaming. With the expansion of streaming in comparison to network and cable television, film and television artists have seen their income from residuals drop.

The new contract makes headway in reversing that trend.

The final stumbling block in negotiations was the union's demand for protections from the threat to job security by artificial intelligence. AI technology allows studios to create a "digital replica" of an actor that can then be used to create footage without the actor's participation. The contract mandates compensation and informed consent when

digital replicas are used, for background actors as well as featured performers.

Solidarity from other U.S. unions — who refused to cross picket lines — and member unions in the International Federation of Actors, combined with the dedication of 850 volunteer strike captains and 160,000 striking SAG-AFTRA members, made this victory possible. □

# Portland teachers historic strike

By Lyn Neeley  
Portland, Oregon

In their first-ever strike, Portland teachers walked off the job on Nov. 1. They are demanding smaller class sizes, the hiring of additional teachers, improvements to school infrastructure for safer classroom conditions, and a salary that keeps up with inflation. They also want more mental health specialists hired to support the growing number of kids in need.

Parents and students are joining teachers' daily rallies that happen at most public schools. After the rallies, teachers take off in picket lines, marching throughout the city. Placards and chants have attracted mass community support. Thousands of people have sent letters to Portland Public Schools in support of the teachers.

Support is also coming from construction workers working at Benson High School who refuse to cross the teachers' picket line and have planned a demonstration of support on Nov. 15. Their message is that workers

support the teachers, who teach the future essential workers who will run this city.

"It feels like more than just a moment," according to Jacque Dixon, vice president of the Portland Association of Teachers. "It's definitely a historic moment for our union, but it feels like part of a larger movement." (The Guardian, Nov. 6)

Many union members have supported the teachers, along with large labor unions including Service Employees Union (SEIU) Local 503, Portland Federation of School Professionals, and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 5. Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers union, sent a solidarity statement to the teachers. On Nov. 6, members of the burgeoning Oregon chapter of Rideshare Drivers United rallied and marched with the teachers. □



WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY  
Students and parents join teachers at the district office where negotiations are taking place between Portland Public Schools and the Portland Association of Teachers.

# The people say: 'Shut it down for Palestine'

By Martha Grevatt

There has been no letup in the mass movement to stop the Zionist genocide in Palestine. Here are but a few examples of the explosion of mass protest which have taken place since Oct. 7.

On Nov. 8 at UPenn Commons in **Philadelphia**, light projection of pro-Palestine slogans raised a critical question that University of Pennsylvania President Liz Magill had to answer. Which side is she on — genocide and Zionist apartheid or cease-fire and an end to the occupation of Palestine?



Philadelphia, Nov. 8, 2023.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Instead of opposing the genocide, Magill responded with a statement calling the projections antisemitic and "vile." Her statement centered on the slogan "From the river to the Sea, Palestine will be free." In actuality, the phrase calls for a free Palestine where everyone, no matter their religion or background, has equal rights and privileges, and where Palestinians who have been violently displaced have the right to return.

It's a call for a new Palestinian state to replace the current apartheid state of Israel, where only Jewish people have full citizenship and where Indigenous Palestinians are severely exploited,

oppressed and displaced. ([theDP.com](http://theDP.com), Nov 9)

The Palestinian Youth Movement and Indigenous and Chicano activists in **Houston** organized a joint event for the Day of the Dead Nov. 8 entitled "Pray for Palestine: Indigenous Solidarity / Raza Con Gaza." A candle-light vigil at Guadalupe Plaza was filled with Palestinian flags, singers and poets. Prayers were said in English, Spanish, Hebrew and Arabic.

The plaza had a large outline of the map of Palestine done with candles and inside it were items normally seen during Day of the Dead — El Día de los Muertos. One of the organizers, Monica Villareal, told Workers World, "We felt the need to create the event to alleviate hopelessness over what is happening to Palestine. I understand the importance of continuing to speak out in any form it may take, whatever it looks like. The caliber of artists was phenomenal and the youth were empowered to organize. It was inspiring."

Dozens of cities held protests on Nov. 9 to "Shut it down for Palestine." Actions continued during the next few days.

There were gigantic demonstrations in **New York City** Nov. 9 and Nov. 10 in Bryant Park and Columbus Circle. Hundreds of LGBTQ2S+ activists joined the Queers for Palestine march from Union Square to the historic Stonewall Inn on Nov. 12. That same day, a huge crowd gathered outside the **Brooklyn** Museum for a Children's March for Gaza. Jewish Voice for Peace held a march in **Newark, New Jersey**, Nov. 13.

On Nov. 11, Over 1,000 people — Palestinian, Arab, Jewish, Black and Brown, old and young, of every gender — marched to President Joe Biden's home in **Wilmington, Delaware**, to say "Cease-fire now!" "End



Houston, Nov. 8, 2023.

WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC



Queers for Palestine march, Nov. 12, 2023.

WW PHOTO: MARSHA GOLDBERG



Columbus Circle, New York City, Nov. 10, 2023.

WW PHOTO: MARSHA GOLDBERG



Wilmington, Delaware, Nov. 11, 2023.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



Bryant Park, New York City, Nov. 9, 2023.

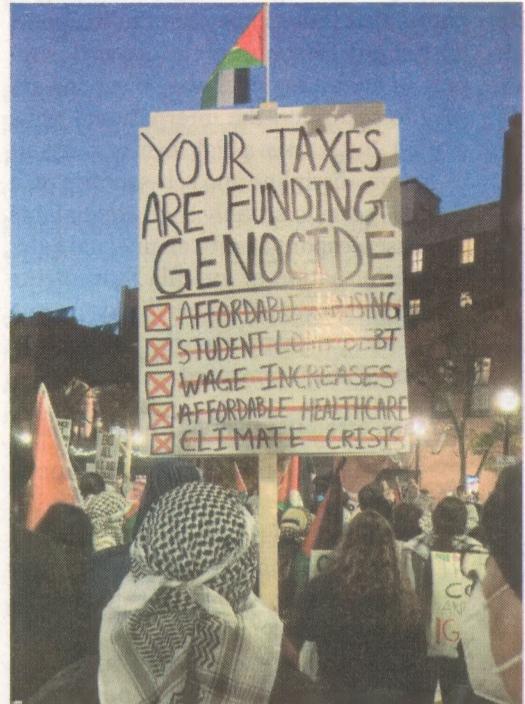
WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN



Philadelphia, Nov. 12, 2023.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

# it down for Palestine'



Cleveland, Nov. 9, 2023. WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

the genocide!" "End the occupation!" and "Free Palestine!"

Over 700 people, young and not so young, representing many families, marched from Philadelphia's Clark Park to Cedar Park on Nov. 12, to demand the U.S. and Israel initiate an immediate cease-fire in Gaza and put an end to the occupation of Palestine. The event was part of a National Family Day of Action called by Families for Ceasefire.

Hundreds of Palestinians and allies turned out in Cleveland Nov. 9 to "Shut it down for Palestine." After a spirited rally in Market Square Park, protesters took over the streets on the city's Near West Side. In Santa Fe, New Mexico, over 400 people marched in solidarity with Palestine. A Labor for Palestine march in Portland, Oregon, drew over 1,000 people.

*Marsha Goldberg, Renee Imperato, Lyn Neeley, Joe Piette and Gloria Rubac contributed to this report.*



Portland, Oregon, Nov. 11, 2023. WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY



Santa Fe, New Mexico, Nov. 11, 2023. WW PHOTO: RENÉE IMPERATO



Austin, Texas, Nov. 12, 2023. PHOTO: CALEB GRANGER

## Boston Coalition for Palestine shuts down Massachusetts Avenue Bridge

By Steve Gillis  
Boston

A massive rally in support of the Palestinian resistance in Boston's Copley Square on Nov. 12 brought out more than 10,000 to demand, "Stop the genocide in Gaza!" and "End all U.S. aid to Israel." The action was pulled together in four days by the over 30 organizations that comprise the Boston Coalition for Palestine, initiated in early October 2023 by the Palestinian House of New England.

Mahtowin Munro of United American Indians of New England (UAINE) and Jean-Luc Pierite, President of the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB),

opened the rally with calls for international Indigenous solidarity, massive reparations, the right to return and land back for the Indigenous population of Palestine. "From Boston to Palestine, colonialism is a crime!" they declared.

Students under attack at Boston-area universities, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders, a Holocaust survivor and leaders of the Palestinian House demanded, "Lift the siege of Gaza," "Cease fire now!" and that the U.S. and Zionist governments open the Rafah Crossing immediately to international aid.

Layan Alnajjar of Students for Justice in Palestine at the University of Connecticut emceed and, along with a powerful quartet of Palestinian women, led chants atop

Boston Labor for Palestine's sound truck. At the Copley Square stage, which was draped with the names of over 11,000 murdered Gazans, Alnajjar informed the crowd that, "We will no longer refer to Gaza as an open air prison, because the only criminals there are the occupiers. The U.S. and Israel have turned Gaza into a concentration camp."

On swank Newbury Street — filled with tourists dining and shopping — marchers spontaneously stopped and sat down to disrupt business. Protesters displayed outrage in front of a Starbucks store for that corporation's complicity with Israeli apartheid. "Starbucks, Starbucks what do you say? How

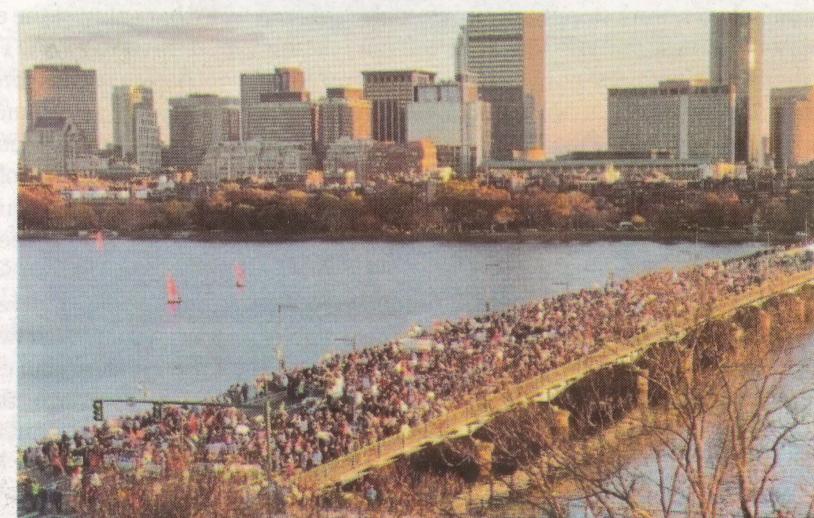
many kids did you kill today?" they chanted.

Despite the threatening presence of multiple jurisdictions of federal, state and city cops, marchers took all four lanes of the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge, occupying and shutting down that major artery over the Charles River.

The final target was the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, where marchers took over the steps, grounds and street at its main entrance. They denounced the institution's leading role in fueling the military industrial complex and the discriminatory suspensions of students belonging to the MIT Coalition Against Apartheid, who had occupied the administration's offices earlier in the week. □



Layan Alnajjar of Students for Justice in Palestine leading chants on Boston Labor for Palestine's truck, Nov. 12, 2023. WW PHOTO: STEVE GILLIS



Occupying the Massachusetts Avenue Bridge, Nov. 12, 2023. PHOTO: IG @MALIKSADEDDIN

# Gaza resistance exposes limits of U.S. power

By Sara Flounders

The U.S. stranglehold is slipping. Its global hegemony and its ability to assert that U.S. power alone is the decision maker are being challenged by a desperate and revolutionary people kept totally imprisoned.

The audacity of the coordinated Palestinian resistance, which began with a surprise operation on Oct. 7, was not only a shock to the Zionist military machine and its vaunted intelligence network, but is also sending shockwaves through the U.S. empire.

Both Israel and the U.S. rulers are now relying on brute force. But brute force can't reverse this political blow. More U.S.-supplied weapons for massive destruction only clarify the U.S. role—and will further arouse the hatred of the millions of people in the Global South. The coordinated Palestinian resistance is a deadly threat to Israel and its principal backer.

Many commentators agree that the Israeli myth of "invincibility" will never recover from the blow. The whole world has viewed, again and again, the videos of the bold coordinated flight over layers of electrified fences, barbed wire and surveillance cameras by small, motorized hang gliders, followed by light drones. The protection afforded by the Israeli Iron Dome has been shattered by barrages of shoulder missiles hitting Israeli command centers as far away as Tel Aviv.

While the attack was a surprise, it was certainly not unprovoked. It was an act of desperation by the population of a concentration camp who have suffered 16 years in total lockdown and 75 years of complete displacement. The whole Palestinian population was under a lifetime prison sentence.

Israel is opportunistically using the attack on Oct. 7 as a pretext to escalate its "ethnic cleansing" of Gaza and expand the ongoing building of Zionist settlements on the West Bank.

Israel's plans for a final displacement of the Palestinians in Gaza were long on the drawing board, openly discussed with great arrogance and inflated self-confidence.

The relentless bombing of Gaza is a sign of Zionist desperation and wild revenge. It is not a plan. The so-called Israeli Defense Forces are stumbling into a ground invasion, although they know that, in the past, they were unable to sustain similar invasions of Gaza in 2009 and Lebanon in 2000 and 2006. They were no match for anti-tank weapons and small guerilla bands acting cohesively in coordinated attacks.

The mobilization of millions of people around the world, now on a daily basis, is a threat to the political order. The sheer size, scale and speed with which huge events have come together—from massive demonstrations, even where they have been outlawed, to thousands of walkouts from schools, work stoppages, sit-ins, highway blockings, and disruptive actions in transportation hubs, ports, against weapons manufacturers, at politicians' offices—is unprecedented. This new, awakening consciousness in solidarity with besieged Palestine—and in rage against U.S. support for this grotesque violence—is a threat to long-established capitalist rule.

Even within the U.S., despite the almost total corporate control of the media, Israel has lost public support, especially among youth.

## 'Existential crisis'

Many Israelis describe the situation as an "existential crisis." The continued existence of this Zionist, colonial outpost is at stake.

President Joe Biden's immediate fran-

tic trip to Israel, his desperate embrace of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and promises of still more weapons, followed by U.S. military generals and advisers with aircraft carrier battle groups in tow, expose that on a global scale, the besieged Palestinian movement has struck a major blow to U.S. hegemony.

Israel, in past years, had been elevated into a "strategic partner" crucial to U.S. "regional security," even as the U.S. occupation of Iraq unraveled and plans to overthrow the Syrian government also failed.

Just a month ago, the U.S. rulers thought they had wangled Saudi Arabia and the ruling classes of several Arab countries into recognizing Israel. But now, by arousing the hatred of the masses of the region, that cynical deal has been moved off the table.

All of the U.S. plans made since the Obama administration to pivot away from failed wars in the Middle East in order to encircle and threaten China are now in complete disarray.

The U.S./NATO military alliance is battered and running short on weapons and funding in Ukraine. Its corrupt forces have totally failed to secure any ground in their five-month "spring offensive." This was a war that Biden, over 20 months ago, promised would be over in weeks, with the ruble turned to rubble and regime change in Moscow. Now the U.S. war machine is bogged down on two fronts, struggling to gather munitions and funding for both Israel and Ukraine.

## 'Unsinkable aircraft carrier'

Israel has for 75 years been considered U.S. imperialism's unsinkable aircraft carrier, its one secure asset. Israel is totally dependent on the U.S. for its political, economic and military survival. Israel has consistently been the largest recipient of U.S. military aid, exceeding \$13 million a day, every day, for 75 years. ([ifamericanasknew.org/stat/usaid.html](http://ifamericanasknew.org/stat/usaid.html))

Now Israel's very existence is in question.

This is what is behind U.S. support for Israel's carpet bombing of the tiny Gaza enclave, deploying more weapons than the U.S. used in Afghanistan and more explosive power than the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. ([tinyurl.com/mr2a7wrc](http://tinyurl.com/mr2a7wrc))

The bombing is so extreme that it has turned Gaza into "a ball of fire," according to Al Jazeera. Hospitals, schools, United Nations refugee centers—all are being bombed with full U.S. support.

Yet despite these crimes or the world outcry, Israel is assured of an endless stream of U.S. weapons and vetoes in the U.N. Security Council.

## People's War

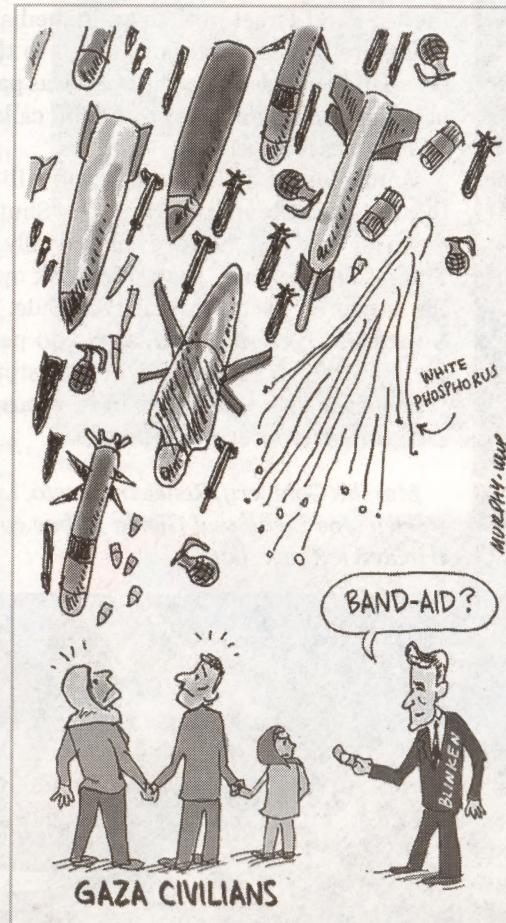
Palestine is today engaged in a People's War. A war where almost the entire population is mobilized to resist. The U.S. and Western corporate media constantly bait Hamas, the elected government in Gaza, calling it a small terrorist faction.

However, this Intifada involves the participation of every Palestinian resistance organization active among the Palestinian masses for decades. Their strikes and their martyrs, both secular and religious, are publicly applauded and their news is posted by all the various Palestinian groups.

Engaged in Gaza are the fighting units/brigades of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), Islamic Jihad, Popular Resistance Committees, Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, and even fighting units

of Fatah—along with Hamas's Qassam Brigades. There is also unity in action against armed bands of Zionist settler thugs in the West Bank.

While both the U.S. and Israel have horrendous weapons, U.S. imperialism has failed to defeat past People's Wars in Afghanistan, Iraq, Korea, Syria and Vietnam.



All of the formerly colonized countries of the Global South—so long under the threat of U.S. sanctions, invasions and regime change operations—have identified with the long Palestinian struggle for sovereignty. This is reflected in overwhelming votes in the United Nations General Assembly and in all international gatherings.

Some 77 resolutions have been passed by the U.N. General Assembly condemning the occupation and Israel's genocidal, apartheid treatment of Palestinians. The United States has never voted for one, and Israel has never been held accountable.

## Threat of regional war

U.S. imperialism can ignore these U.N. votes and regional condemnation.

Far more ominous for the U.S. strategic position in the entire region are the escalating Iraqi missile strikes on the remaining U.S. bases in Iraq. In Syria, the government has survived 12 years of U.S. regime change efforts and is now reclaiming lost ground. Ansarullah forces in Yemen, still surrounded by a U.S. naval blockade, have fired ballistic missiles at Eilat, an Israeli port city—a distance of some 1,500 kilometers.

The greatest concern of both Israel and the U.S. is a new front in Lebanon in this devastating war. Hezbollah has hit many targets in Israel over the past month. All of the Zionist settler outposts near the Lebanese border have been evacuated, along with all of the settlements surrounding Gaza.

Iran is consistently blamed for the weapons that the Palestinians have managed to smuggle into Gaza.

Each of these countries has survived, despite years of U.S. sanctions and Washington's continuing efforts to block all development.

Massive mobilizations in Jordan's Hashemite monarchy and Egypt's military dictatorship send a message that these compliant states could rapidly unravel. A continuing organized people's blockade of roads has stopped gas shipments into

Jordan. Identification with beleaguered Palestine is changing the consciousness of the whole region.

Despite its big threats, the Pentagon knows that it does not have the weapons, the military personnel or the domestic support to fight a regional war. Weapons are easy to secure on the international arms market. But it takes a high level of determination, discipline and self-sacrifice on a mass scale to secretly train combatants to use weapons in such an unequal fight. The formation of guerilla movements and the power of peoples' movements are lessons deeply absorbed by the millions of disenfranchised.

## Many attempts to divide and conquer

In an earlier time, the Zionists hoped that targeting the secular Palestinian movement would make the religious forces more compliant. They continually game-planned policies to set one group against another.

The Zionists developed different kinds of repressive tactics in the West Bank than in Gaza. Still other tactics were used against Palestinians living within the 1948 borders. Palestinians in refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria and Jordan experienced very different conditions, as did Palestinians in the wider diaspora.

The overwhelming vote in Gaza for Hamas 16 years ago was met with U.S. sanctions—an ironclad blockade on Gaza so extreme that even funds created to support orphanages and hospitals were prosecuted in the U.S. with charges of financing terrorism.

These U.S./Israeli sanctions, imposed since 2007, were collective punishment on the entire population. Now the complete shutoff of water, food, medicine and electricity over the past month has been a further step in collective punishment and is an explicit violation of international law.

Every step has further emboldened the most racist and right-wing forces. They have escalated assaults on the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Now there are daily attacks on West Bank Palestinian settlements, including the nightly kidnapping of Palestinian hostages by the Israeli military, which openly operates with Zionist settler gangs that have morphed into vigilante lynch mobs.

The Zionist forces have made every effort, using the most sophisticated tactics, to divide the Palestinian movement, trying to highlight and exacerbate the political differences in Palestine's long struggle. But the decades of repression have forced the movement to grow far more united.

This new Palestinian Intifada has demonstrated greater levels of unity, even in complex military operations.

## Zionism is fracturing

The Zionist movement is now more divided than ever, between extreme right-wing and more liberal groupings, between religious and secular groupings, and between recent Jewish arrivals and those who came in earlier waves.

The Zionists are already a minority of the total population. Apartheid divisions are an effort to hide the reality.

All currents in the Zionist movement constantly decry the number of Israelis who have dual citizenship in other countries and passports from at least one (and sometimes several) countries.

Israel is a small, artificial state. Millions of Israelis are reexamining their options if the government can't assure their safety. The occupation's days are numbered. This will give new confidence to the Palestinian people. □

# Behind Israel's 'end game' for Gaza: Theft of offshore gas reserves

By Betsey Piette

In 1999, British Gas (BG) discovered the existence of natural gas in the Gaza Marine fields, 20 nautical miles off the coast of Gaza, at a depth of 375 miles. Further exploration by BG through two successful wells — Gaza Marine 1 and Gaza Marine 2 — determined the field could contain up to 1 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. (EgyptOil-Gas.com, April 5, 2018)

The Palestinian Authority was "granted" the right to exercise sovereignty over its own maritime territory by the Oslo Accords in 1995. Four years later, following the findings of the offshore natural gas, the PA gave the international consortium BG a 25-year, 90% stake in a license to explore, develop any discovered fields, and install the required infrastructure. Since that time Israel has consistently blocked this development.

In 2002, the PA approved BG's proposals to construct a pipeline to a processing facility in Gaza. However, the Israeli state delayed this development, arguing that the pipeline should run to an Israeli-controlled port, and that Palestinians would have to supply Gaza Marine surplus fuel to Israel at far below market price.

When Hamas won the Palestinian legislative elections in Gaza in 2006, taking control in 2007, Israel established a militarized naval blockade, prohibiting further offshore development. Around the same time, Yam Thetis, an Israeli gas consortium, challenged the awarding of the contract to BG, further delaying the process.

In December 2008, in total contravention of international laws, Israel declared sovereignty over the Gaza Marine area, and BG closed its offices in Tel Aviv.

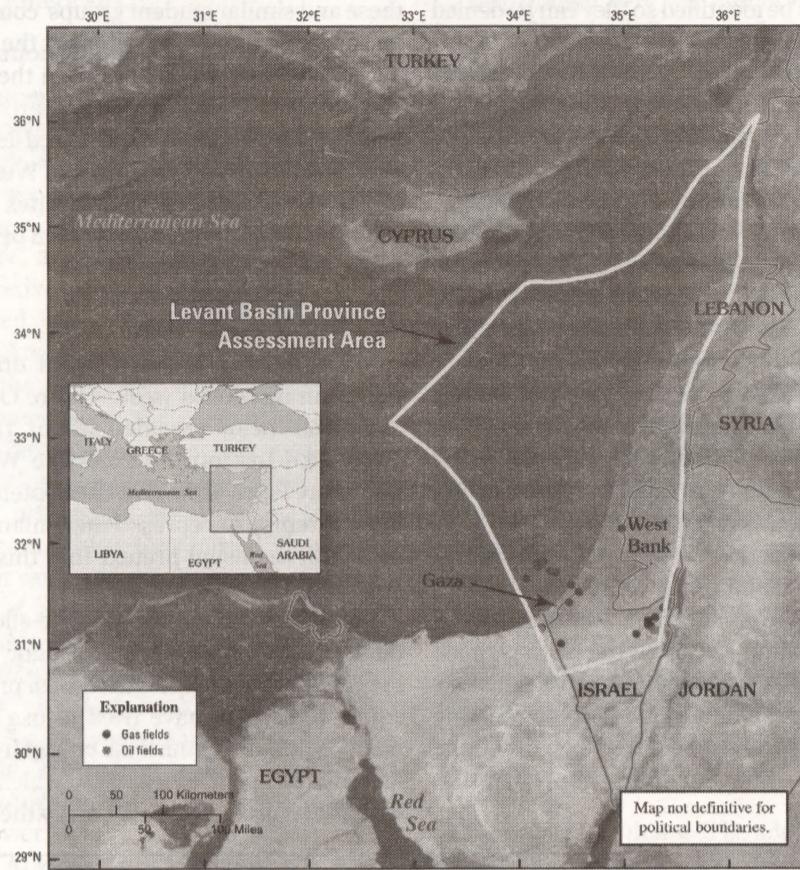
Royal Dutch Shell bought out BG's interests in the Gaza Marine fields for \$52 million in 2016. By March 2018, Royal Dutch Shell backed out of their investment, leaving the PA to search for a replacement company to develop the field. (EgyptOil-Gas.com, April 5, 2018)

## U.N. study cites Palestinian natural gas reserves

A 2019 study by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) identified existing and potential Palestinian oil and natural gas reserves in the West Bank and Gaza that could be developed for the benefit of the Palestinian people.

The report cited the Levant Basin Province, comprising 83,000 square kilometers of the eastern Mediterranean Sea, with 122 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, as one of the most important natural gas resources in the world. Despite the fact that this reserve lies under waters bordering occupied Palestine, Lebanon, and Egypt, Israel has claimed sole access and profits from this find. ([tinyurl.com/2r2mh5ts](http://tinyurl.com/2r2mh5ts))

While the estimated volume of natural gas in the Gaza Marine is considerably less than the Levant Basin, its



proximity to the shore and lesser depth make it easier and less costly to extract. In 2019, UNCTAD estimated the net value of the Gaza Marine natural gas at \$4.592 billion — energy and financial resources that could go a long way in addressing poverty in the region.

Yet Israel continued to prevent Palestinians from developing and benefiting from their natural resources, in clear violation of international law that governs who has rights to these resources when a country is occupied.

## Gaza Marine importance to global energy

Renewed interest in pursuing development of the Gaza Marine field surfaced in 2022 following the war between Russia and Ukraine, the destruction of the Nord Stream Pipeline, and the sanctions placed on Russia that caused a global energy crisis. Joint meetings were held between Israeli, U.S., Egyptian, Jordanian and Palestinian Authority officials to discuss the project, which was given the go-ahead by Netanyahu following his reelection. In particular, President Joe Biden and Egyptian government officials pressured Israel to pursue the project. ([al-monitor.com](http://al-monitor.com), June 19)

On June 18, Israel gave preliminary approval for the development of a gas field off the coast of Gaza, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu claiming progress would hinge on "preserving the State of Israel's security and diplomatic needs" and coordination with the Palestinian Authority and neighboring Egypt. At the same time, Hamas official Ismail Rudwan told Reuters: "We reaffirm that our people in Gaza have the rights to

their natural resources." (June 18)

Two months before Oct. 7, the Pentagon began building a \$35.8 million troop facility in Israel's Negev desert, 20 miles from Gaza, allegedly as a radar site to monitor for missile attacks on Israel. The base is part of a "secret" U.S. military presence in Israel. (The Intercept, Oct. 27)

Since Oct. 7, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made it clear that Israel intends to kill as many Palestinians as possible in order to pressure others to leave the Gaza Strip and move to the Sinai in Egypt. Netanyahu has been adamant in refusing to order a cease-fire to let in aid to stop the horrific genocide being carried out in Gaza.

The people of Gaza are well aware, as their grandparents experienced with the 1948 Nakba, that once Israelis forcefully remove Palestinians from Palestinian land, returning is a near impossibility.

Israel's genocidal war on Palestinians has not stopped the Israeli regime's plans for further oil and gas exploration. On Oct. 29, Israel announced that it awarded 12 licenses for exploring additional offshore natural gas fields to six companies, including British Petroleum and Italian energy giant Eni. These awards show that Israel has no intention of letting the genocide it is carrying out against Gaza's people interfere with its ongoing theft of Palestinian resources.

## Indigenous Land Back Movement

In many ways, the struggle of the Palestinian people parallels that of Indigenous tribes and nations in the Western Hemisphere, whose populations were decimated over the course of hundreds of years of white settler colonialism.

For many Indigenous people in the U.S., so-called "Thanksgiving" is the Day of Mourning. In 1621, in an act of survival, the Wampanoag signed an agreement with the Pilgrims, but the European settlers broke the treaty and decimated the tribe's population, stealing their land in the process.

Over the course of the next 400 years, Indigenous lands were stolen by the European colonialists. Indigenous people were either killed or pushed off their land and forced to relocate to reservations believed to be on worthless land, often considerable distances from their original homes. Later, when these reservations turned out to be located atop vast reserves of valuable minerals, the land theft would start again.

Centuries-long battles to reclaim the land stolen from Indigenous people in the Western Hemisphere have been gaining momentum, along with calls for reparations with the Land Back movement.

From Turtle Island to the Gaza Strip, Indigenous peoples are fighting the settler colonial theft of their lands and resources. □

# Unions worldwide obstruct arms supplies to Israel

By Marc Vandepitte

*The author is a Belgian Marxist who writes for [rebelion.org](http://rebelion.org) and [investigaction.net](http://investigaction.net).*

When Israel unleashed its ruthless war of revenge against the people of Gaza, Palestinian trade unions appealed to their colleagues worldwide for a boycott of arms deliveries to Israel:

"As Israel escalates its military campaign, Palestinian trade unions call on our counterparts internationally and all people of conscience to end all forms of complicity with Israel's crimes — most urgently halting the arms trade with Israel, as well as all funding and military research. The time for action is now — Palestinian lives hang in the balance."

## Belgian unions set example

The **Belgian** trade unions were the first to set a good example. In a joint press release they called for a stop to arms shipments destined for Israel. They refuse to contribute to the murder of innocent victims and call for an immediate cease-fire.

"We, the various trade unions active in the ground handling sector, call on our members to no longer handle flights shipping military material to Palestine/Israel, as there were clear agreements and rules at the beginning of the conflict with Russia and Ukraine."

The Belgian example is being followed in many countries. The list grows every day.

In the **United States**, [the Unite All Workers for Democracy caucus (UAWD)], part of the United Auto Workers (UAW), which waged a fierce battle for wage increases, has called for a boycott of Israel.

"We watch with horror as the U.S. sends American troops to assist in an Israeli ground invasion of Gaza. We mourn the loss of civilian life. We categorically reject US support of the murderous Israeli regime in its ongoing genocide of Palestinians, which has killed over 7,000 people and injured 16,000 more in airstrikes since October 7, and has cut off water, food, and power to the population of Gaza."

"We call on the UAW to endorse and implement boycott, divestment and sanctions (BDS)."

The United Tech & Allied Workers of **Britain** (UTAW-CWU) join calls from Palestinian trade unions for the

international labor movement to end all complicity and take concrete action against arms supplies to Israel.

## India's unions say, 'No arms to Israel'

The All India Central Council of Trade Unions (AICCTU), which represents more than 600,000 workers in **India**, is appealing to unions for a boycott of arms shipments to Israel.

"We extend our full support to the call by Palestinian trade unions to all workers of the world and their unions to unite and boycott manufacturing or loading of weapons and military equipment destined to Israel and its brutal war."

In **Brazil**, the Unified Workers Central (CUT), the largest trade union federation representing more than 7.4 million workers, passed a resolution pledging unwavering support for the Palestinians.

The **Canadian** Union of Public Employees (CUPE), the country's largest union with 740,000 members, adopted a resolution in solidarity with the Palestinian people, including a call for the government to "end its sale of arms to Israel."

*Continued on page 10*

**WORKERS WORLD**  **editorial**

# Salute students who fight genocide

The mass revulsion at Israeli terror in Gaza has unleashed a conflict on U.S. college campuses, where student activists confront not only pro-Israel students, but also college administrations and wealthy donor alumni who have targeted student groups that oppose Israel's genocidal attack.

Confrontations have disrupted many campuses, including at public colleges, where nearly all the students come from the working class, and those considered elite, such as Ivy League colleges and some California universities.

Since a greater percentage of their students come from ruling-class backgrounds, most media coverage goes to the "elite" schools: Stanford, University of California Los Angeles, University of Pennsylvania, Yale, Harvard and Columbia. Those who run U.S. capitalist society expect many students at these schools to continue running the economy and the state.

When students at these universities rebel, it's big news. And they have rebelled. It also involves big money. And the billionaires have demanded the students be pun-

ished. In some cases they even demand the students be identified so they can be denied jobs or harassed where they live.

This reached a turning point at Columbia University in New York City. Columbia's administration banned the two main Palestine solidarity organizations, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP).

While the administration gave the usual phony pretext — some rule being broken, you can always find one — it was miles from the real reason they were banned: They refused to swallow the official lies about Palestine and/or they refused to be complicit with Israeli genocide, which they can watch every night in news reports and on social media.

Although the reactionary donors parrot the false claim of the Israeli government and U.S. imperialism that the activist students are "antisemitic," the truth is much different. Neither SJP nor JVP ideology identifies being Jewish with supporting a Zionist state that settles people of one religion while expelling people of other religions.

Working-class organizations admire these and similar student groups' courage, just as we do the organizations at the public universities, such as those in the City University of New York. They are confronting not only the U.S.-armed Israeli genocide but also the rulers of all Western imperialist countries, whose elites consider the Israeli state an extension of their own exploitation of West Asia.

## Palestine Writes Festival

Since the pro-Israeli alumni donors at UPenn mobilized weeks before Oct. 7, more has been revealed about them. They tried to stop the Palestine Writes Literature Festival, held in late September, in an attempt to repress Palestinian culture with the usual pretext that this was "antisemitic." They failed.

Simply because the university allowed the Festival to proceed, a big donor from the Estée Lauder corporation and a private equity billionaire have tried to use their money's power to punish the university and determine its policy, even about which professors are hired. Estée Lauder, by the way,



Columbia Univ. students rally for Palestine, NYC, Oct. 12, 2023.

has been on the list of companies to boycott for their ties to the Israeli state.

The conflict over events in Gaza has exposed the perverse role of big money in the university system intrinsic to U.S. capitalism. Now students, activists and sympathizers, face another choice: Do they bow to the threats to their financial future or do they continue to fight against the U.S./Israeli genocide?

Many have already made the choice to continue the struggle. Perhaps the attempt at repression will boomerang against the rulers, just as it did during another criminal U.S. war in 1968. We in Workers World salute the students from CUNY to UCLA who are fighting U.S.-Israeli terror. □

## WW COMMENTARY

# Racist censure of Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Detroit

**By Martha Grevatt**

Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan is the only Palestinian member of Congress.

She is also one of only 26 House representatives to be censured since the first session of the U.S. Congress in 1789. Congress has three types of punishment for its members: reprimand, censure and expulsion. Reprimands are issued for "serious violations," while censure is reserved for "more serious violations."

The House voted to censure Rep. Tlaib on Nov. 7, Election Day — one year after she was elected for a third term to represent her many Black, Arab and other constituents in Metro Detroit. Her censure had the backing of 22 Democrats and all but four Republicans.

What were these "more serious violations?" Rep. Rich McCormick, who pushed the censure resolution, accused Tlaib of antisemitism, claiming she "levied unbelievable falsehoods about our greatest ally, Israel." She was accused of supporting Hamas and calling for the destruction of Israel, because she attended a demonstration where "from the river to the sea" was part of the chanting.

Rep. Tlaib has argued that: "From the river to the sea is an aspirational call for freedom, human rights and peaceful coexistence, not death, destruction or hate." Speaking on the House floor before the censure vote, she rightly denounced attempts to equate criticism of Israel with antisemitism. Choking up, she spoke movingly about her Sity — her grandmother — living in Gaza.

Every oppressed nation has the right to self-determination. As a Palestinian woman, Tlaib has every right to advocate for an end to Israeli apartheid by any means, including the establishment of one unified secular state in Palestine. She has every right to support any grouping in the liberation struggle, including Hamas.

But in fact, Rep. Tlaib has not committed any of the acts she is accused of. Her statement that was issued after the censure condemns Hamas.

That is deemed irrelevant by a capitalist



Rep. Rashida Tlaib.

political establishment hell-bent on quashing any denunciation of the apartheid system and genocide that Palestine has been subjected to for 75 years. Israel is indeed a great ally — not of the U.S. working class, but of Western imperialism, which demands absolute loyalty to the Zionist settler state.

On Nov. 8, Michigan Senate Minority Leader Aric Nesbitt introduced a resolution in the Senate calling on Rep. Tlaib to resign.

## Congress vs. the First Amendment

Most of the House representatives who voted with the minority in opposing censure did so based on "freedom of speech" and have made a point of distancing themselves from Tlaib's position. The pro-censure majority essentially voted to deny Tlaib her First Amendment rights under the U.S. Constitution, which in their oath of office they swear to defend.

An earlier, more extreme resolution,

introduced by far right Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, was defeated. Greene accused Tlaib of "leading an insurrection," i.e., the demonstration inside the U.S. Capitol of Jewish activists calling for a cease-fire, an action the representative did not even attend. Greene has defended the actual insurrection that took place Jan. 6, 2021, where genuine displays of antisemitism — swastika flags — were carried.

Other members of "The Squad" — Reps. Cori Bush, Ilhan Omar, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ayanna Pressley along with Tlaib, all women of color — have given support to their besieged colleague. They are seen as progressives within the Democratic Party on a range of issues, from supporting striking workers to backing LGBTQIA+ rights. But even Ocasio-Cortez has come under fire from antiwar activists for making pro-Israel statements after Oct. 7.

The censure of Rep. Tlaib must be overturned and the attacks on this courageous Palestinian woman must cease immediately! An attack on her is in essence an attack on the Palestinian people's right to return.

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free! □

# Unions worldwide obstruct arms supplies to Israel

*Continued from page 9*

In Japan, the National Railway Motive Power Union of the town of Chiba (1 million inhabitants) responds to the call of the Palestinian unions. The Japanese government plans to supply weapons and financial aid to Israel, among other things. The railway association wants to prevent this: "We wholeheartedly support the fierce struggle of the Palestinian people, and we will fight with all our might to overthrow the Kishida administration, a member of international imperialism: the cause of oppression of the people and the cause of war."

## Colombia: Miners' union says, 'Suspend shipments'

In Colombia, the miners' union wants a suspension of the supply of all minerals and fuels to Israel.

"As noted by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, these events 'do not come in a vacuum'. The Palestinian people have been subjected to 56 years of suffocating occupation; they have seen their land constantly swallowed up by settlements and plagued by violence.

"Their economy was stifled, their people displaced and

their homes destroyed. Their hopes for a political solution to their plight are fading.

"The Israeli government's response has been described by President Gustavo Petro as a situation similar to what was experienced in the Nazi concentration camps. It's a genocide. In light of this barbarity, our president yesterday recalled the Colombian ambassador to Israel for consultations.

"We fully support these decisions and encourage the government to suspend shipments of Colombian coal and all metals and minerals to Israel as leverage for an immediate cease-fire, as demanded by civil society,



Workers block entrances of a subsidiary of Elbit Systems in Kent, England.

human rights organizations, churches and we join as a trade union organization."

## 'Cease fire now!'

In Barcelona, port workers have decided not to allow materials to be sent to the conflict in the Gaza Strip. They do this for the "sole purpose of protecting the civilian population, regardless of territory. No reason justifies the sacrifice of civilians."

The dockworkers consider it a collective "obligation" to defend the Universal Declaration of Human Rights "tooth and nail." They criticize the fact that many countries seem to have forgotten that they signed the Declaration. They point out that these human rights are "currently being violated in Ukraine, Israel and the Palestinian territories."

The dockers call for an immediate cease-fire and peaceful solutions to the various conflicts.

In Poland, the largest umbrella confederation of trade unions (OPZZ) is calling for an end to military cooperation with Israel. □

## WW COMMENTARY

# Defend the right to resistance

By Monica Moorehead

Based on a talk given at an Oct. 19, 2023, Workers World Party meeting in New York City.

With any struggle for national liberation, the role of violence of the oppressed versus violence of the oppressor becomes a debate within the worldwide movement. This debate has occurred for many generations starting with the Paris Commune in 1871, when the workers and the poor of Paris dared to seize state power for 72 days to challenge the repressive rule of the dominating French bourgeoisie.

Although the workers and the poor were eventually defeated, these important lessons were examined by Karl Marx's "The Civil War in France." Marx's work helped lay the basis for Vladimir Lenin's "State and Revolution," explaining the role of the repressive state and the triumph of the Soviet Union. There have been other important struggles where the issue of violence became a central question in Vietnam, Cuba, Chile, Angola, People's Korea and elsewhere, along with rebellions of the oppressed inside the U.S.

As Marxists, we don't view this question of violence as one of morality or in isolation, which pacifists and liberals tend to do. It is integral to the class struggle that goes to the heart of which side you are on — the side of the oppressor or the side of the oppressed; the side of the haves or the have-nots; the side of the working class or the side of the bosses.

It boils down to supporting oppressed peoples who have been superexploited by capitalism and imperialism, not just for one day or one month or one year, but for decades and even for centuries. In the instance of the colonized Palestinians, it has been 75 years since the Nakba.

### Armed resistance in apartheid South Africa

During the height of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa, there was a period when the Black masses and their representatives, like the African National Congress, tried to appeal to the racist regime for a transition of power with peaceful protests and other nonviolent actions. These appeals were drowned in blood with outright heinous massacres, most notably in the Black townships of Soweto in 1976 and Sharpeville in 1960, by the brutal apartheid police.

These terrorist attacks led to a shift in tactics by liberation forces who felt they had no other choice but to organize an armed wing of the anti-apartheid struggle to fight force with force for both survival and social change. This significant decision was made with the understanding that any armed resistance would be a defensive one because the apartheid regime had at its disposal the most sophisticated weaponry from the West, including the U.S. The guerrilla fighters in South Africa had to rely on going underground to retrieve arms from socialist countries like the former Soviet Union, along with military assistance from socialist Cuba.

And as apartheid became more isolated and reviled worldwide, the armed resistance was labeled as "terrorism" by the apartheid regime and its imperialist allies in an attempt to demonize the struggle in the eyes of the world movement. But in the end, it backfired because the masses backed the armed struggle, which eventually led to the end of legal apartheid.

### Palestinians challenge Zionism and imperialism

At this moment, the heroic uprising in Gaza, the West Bank, including Jenin and other areas in the Occupied Territories in Zionist Israel that began on Oct. 7 has taken the global center stage on the question of violence. This righteous struggle is on the front lines of challenging imperialism in the region and the world. It has been over 75 years since the settler colonial state of Israel was



Boston, Oct. 17, 2023

WW PHOTO: STEVEN KIRSCHBAUM

formed resulting in another form of apartheid.

During that time, the Indigenous Palestinian population has been bombed, brutalized, exiled to other parts of the world, and made refugees in their ancestral land by a racist, terrorist regime. This regime acts as a military outpost, doing the bidding of the imperialist West to control fabulous wealth and profits for mainly Big Oil interests.

The Palestinians have used every means at their disposal to fight for their liberation, including general strikes, demonstrations, etc., where they were mowed down by Israel's occupation forces and driven further out of their homes. No liberation forces can compete against bombs, tanks, helicopters and other high-powered military weaponry by just throwing rocks and bottles, or even hijacking airplanes — as justified and heroic as these tactics have been to help bring worldwide attention to the Israeli occupation.

So, once the Hamas group was democratically elected to represent occupied Gaza in 2006, an uncompromising organized resistance to the occupation was elevated, rooted in the First Intifada in the late 1980s.

Working-class forces worldwide must defend the right of Hamas and others to lead an armed struggle, despite any ideological differences. Any form of resistance against Israeli occupation is also a blow against imperialism. This resistance also continues to break the decades-long isolation of those opposing Zionism, an isolation that has enjoyed the united support of the global ruling class and its bourgeois pundits, especially the media.

The rest of the masses in the Arab world, who have also suffered at the hands of the Zionist bullies for decades, view the Palestinian struggle as inspiration for struggling against their own puppet governments, which are complicit in submitting to Israel and imperialism. The only thing that can challenge a repressive state like Israel — a state founded on the wholesale theft of land, carried out with brutality and genocide — is armed resistance and the backing of the masses supporting that armed resistance.

Palestine is an exemplary demonstration of the right to self-defense — a form of self-determination — of an oppressed people or nation, which any left force that

views itself as revolutionary — especially if based in an imperialist country — must defend in order to strengthen global class solidarity.

### A class view on violence

Sam Marcy, the late chairperson of Workers World Party, wrote three articles featured in the 1992 pamphlet "A Marxist Defense of the L.A. Rebellion," when the Black and Latine communities rose up in a spontaneous rebellion following the acquittal of four racist white police officers charged with beating a Black motorist, Rodney King, almost to death in 1991. This heinous crime was caught on video before there was social media. The name of the following section is called "Marxism on violence."

"After every stage in the struggle of the workers and oppressed people, there follows an ideological struggle over what methods the masses should embrace to achieve their liberation from imperialist monopoly capital. There are always those who abjure violence while minimizing the initial use of violence by the ruling class. They denounce it in words, while in deeds they really cover it up. That's precisely what's happening now."

"Yes indeed, they readily admit the verdict in the Rodney King beating was erroneous and unfair. But — and here their voices grow louder — 'The masses should not have taken to the streets and taken matters into their own hands.' Their denunciation of the violence of the ruling class is subdued and muffled — above all it is hypocritical, a sheer formality. It's an indecent way of seeming to take both sides of the argument when what follows is in reality a condemnation of the masses."

"In times when the bourgeoisie is up against the wall, when the masses have risen suddenly and unexpectedly, the bourgeoisie gets most lyrical in abjuring violence. It conjures up all sorts of lies and deceits about the unruliness of a few among the masses as against the orderly law-abiding many. Marxism here again cuts through it all. The Marxist view of violence flows from an altogether different concept. It first of all distinguishes between the violence of the oppressors as against the responsive violence of the masses."

"Just to be able to formulate it that way is a giant step forward, away from disgusting bourgeois praise for nonviolence. It never occurs to any of them to show that the masses have never made any real leap forward with the theory of nonviolence. Timidity never made it in history. Indeed, Marxists do prefer nonviolent methods if the objectives the masses seek — freedom from oppression and exploitation — can be obtained that way. But Marxism explains the historical evolution of the class struggle as well as the struggle of oppressed nations as against oppressors." (At [workers.org/book/a-marxist-defense-of-the-l-a-rebellion/](http://workers.org/book/a-marxist-defense-of-the-l-a-rebellion/))

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free! □



WW GRAPHIC: ARJAE RED

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MO FOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

Boston, 17 de octubre de 2023. Traducción de la pancarta: Autodeterminación para todas las naciones árabes. Fuera yanquis del Medio Oriente. ¡Victoria para Palestina!

## COMENTARIO WW/MO

# Defender el derecho a la resistencia

Por Monica Moorehead

Basado en una charla pronunciada en una reunión del Partido del Mundo Obrero celebrada el 19 de octubre de 2023 en Nueva York.

Con cualquier lucha por la liberación nacional, el rol de la violencia del oprimido versus la violencia del opresor se convierte en un debate dentro del movimiento mundial. Este debate se ha producido durante muchas generaciones, comenzando con la Comuna de París en 1871, cuando los trabajadores y los pobres de París se atrevieron a tomar el poder del Estado durante 72 días para desafiar el régimen represivo de la burguesía francesa dominante.

Aunque los obreros y los pobres fueron finalmente derrotados, estas importantes lecciones fueron examinadas por Karl Marx en "La guerra civil en Francia". La obra de Marx ayudó a sentar las bases de "El Estado y la Revolución" de Vladimir Lenin, explicando el papel del Estado represivo y el triunfo de la Unión Soviética. Ha habido otras luchas importantes en las que la cuestión de la violencia se convirtió en una cuestión central en Vietnam, Cuba, Chile, Angola, la República Popular Democrática de Corea y otros lugares, así como rebeliones de los oprimidos dentro de Estados Unidos.

Como marxistas, no vemos esta cuestión de la violencia como una cuestión moral o aislada, como suelen hacer los pacifistas y los liberales. Es parte integrante de la lucha de clases que va al corazón de qué lado estás: del lado del opresor o del lado del oprimido; del lado de los que tienen o de los que no tienen; del lado de la clase obrera o del lado de los patrones.

Se reduce a apoyar a los pueblos oprimidos que han sido superexplotados por el capitalismo y el imperialismo, no sólo durante un día, un mes o un año, sino durante décadas e incluso siglos. En el caso de los palestinos colonizados, han pasado 75 años desde la Nakba.

### Resistencia armada en la Sudáfrica del apartheid

Durante el apogeo de la lucha contra el apartheid en Sudáfrica, hubo un periodo en el que las masas negras y sus representantes, como el Congreso Nacional Africano, intentaron hacer un llamamiento al régimen racista para una transición de poder con protestas pacíficas y otras acciones no violentas. Estos llamamientos se ahogaron en sangre con atrocidades masacres a manos de la brutal policía del apartheid, sobre todo en los municipios en donde la población era negra -Soweto en 1976 y Sharpeville en 1960.

Estos ataques terroristas provocaron un cambio en la táctica de las fuerzas de liberación, que consideraron que no tenían otra opción que organizar un brazo armado de la lucha contra el apartheid para combatir con la fuerza tanto por la supervivencia como por el cambio social. Esta importante decisión se tomó en el entendimiento de que cualquier



100.000 manifestantes a Londres, el 21 de octubre de 2023.

resistencia armada sería defensiva porque el régimen del apartheid tenía a su disposición el armamento más sofisticado de Occidente, incluido el de EE.UU. Los guerrilleros de Sudáfrica tuvieron que recurrir a la clandestinidad para recuperar armas de países socialistas como la antigua Unión Soviética, junto con la ayuda militar de Cuba socialista.

Y a medida que el apartheid quedaba más aislado y era más repudiado en todo el mundo, la resistencia armada fue tachada de "terrorismo" por el régimen del apartheid y sus aliados imperialistas en un intento de demonizar la lucha a los ojos del movimiento mundial. Pero al final les salió el tiro por la culata, porque las masas respaldaron la lucha armada, que finalmente condujo al fin del apartheid legal.

### Los palestinos desafían al sionismo y al imperialismo

En este momento, el heroico levantamiento en Gaza, Cisjordania, incluido Yenín y otras zonas de los Territorios Ocupados en el Israel sionista que comenzó el 7 de octubre ha ocupado el centro de la escena mundial en la cuestión de la violencia. Esta justa lucha está en primera línea para desafiar al imperialismo en la región y en el mundo. Hace más de 75 años que se formó el Estado colonial de colonos de Israel, que dio lugar a otra forma de apartheid.

Durante ese tiempo, la población indígena palestina ha sido bombardeada, brutalizada, exiliada a otras partes del mundo y convertida en refugiada en su tierra ancestral por un régimen racista y terrorista. Este régimen actúa como un puesto militar avanzado, cumpliendo las órdenes del Occidente imperialista para controlar fabulosas riquezas y beneficios para los intereses principalmente de las Grandes Petroleras.

Los palestinos han utilizado todos los medios a su alcance para luchar por su liberación, incluidas huelgas generales, manifestaciones, etc., en las que fueron

acribillados por las fuerzas de ocupación israelíes y expulsados aún más de sus hogares. Ninguna fuerza de liberación puede competir contra bombas, tanques, helicópteros y otro armamento militar de alta potencia simplemente lanzando piedras y botellas, o incluso secuestrando aviones, por muy justificadas y heroicas que hayan sido estas tácticas para ayudar a llamar la atención mundial sobre la ocupación israelí.

Así, una vez que el grupo Hamás fue elegido democráticamente para representar a la Gaza ocupada en 2006, se elevó una resistencia organizada sin concesiones a la ocupación, enraizada en la Primera Intifada de finales de la década de 1980.

Las fuerzas de la clase obrera de todo el mundo deben defender el derecho de Hamás y de otros grupos a dirigir una lucha armada, a pesar de cualquier diferencia ideológica. Cualquier forma de resistencia contra la ocupación israelí es también un golpe contra el imperialismo. Esta resistencia también sigue rompiendo el aislamiento de décadas de quienes se oponen al sionismo, un aislamiento que ha contado con el apoyo unido de la clase dominante mundial y sus expertos burgueses, especialmente los medios de comunicación.

El resto de las masas del mundo árabe, que también han sufrido a manos de los matones sionistas durante décadas, ven la lucha palestina como inspiración para luchar contra sus propios gobiernos títeres, que son cómplices de la sumisión a Israel y al imperialismo. Lo único que puede desafiar a un Estado represivo como Israel -un Estado fundado sobre el robo de tierras al por mayor, llevado a cabo con brutalidad y genocidio- es la resistencia armada y el respaldo de las masas que apoyan esa resistencia armada.

Palestina es una demostración ejemplar del derecho a la autodefensa -una forma de autodeterminación- de un pueblo o nación oprimidos, que cualquier fuerza de izquierdas que se considere revolucionaria -especialmente si tiene su base en

un país imperialista- debe defender para reforzar la solidaridad de clase global.

### Una visión de clase sobre la violencia

Sam Marcy, el difunto presidente del Workers World Party, escribió tres artículos que aparecen en el panfleto de 1992 "Una defensa marxista de la rebelión de Los Ángeles", cuando las comunidades negra y latina se levantaron en una rebelión espontánea tras la absolución de cuatro policías blancos racistas acusados de golpear casi hasta la muerte a un automovilista negro, Rodney King, en 1991. Este atroz crimen fue grabado en video antes de que existieran las redes sociales. Se titula "Marxismo sobre la violencia".

"Después de cada etapa en la lucha de los trabajadores y los oprimidos, sigue una lucha ideológica sobre qué métodos deben adoptar las masas para lograr su liberación del capital monopolista imperialista. Siempre hay quienes abjurian de la violencia mientras minimizan el uso inicial de la violencia por parte de la clase dominante. La denuncian de palabra, mientras que en los hechos realmente la encubren. Eso es precisamente lo que está ocurriendo ahora.

"Sí, en efecto, admiten de buen grado que el veredicto de la paliza a Rodney King fue erróneo e injusto. Pero -y aquí sus voces se hacen más fuertes- 'Las masas no deberían haber salido a la calle y haberse tomado la justicia por su mano'. Su denuncia de la violencia de la clase dominante es tenue y apagada - sobre todo es hipócrita, una pura formalidad. Es una forma indecente de aparentar que se toman las dos partes de la discusión cuando lo que sigue es en realidad una condena de las masas.

"En los momentos en que la burguesía se encuentra contra la pared, cuando las masas se han levantado repentina e inesperadamente, la burguesía se pone muy lírica al abjurar de la violencia. Inventa todo tipo de mentiras y engaños sobre la insubordinación de unos pocos en las masas frente a la ordenada mayoría respetuosa de la ley. Una vez más, el marxismo lo corta todo. La visión marxista de la violencia surge de un concepto totalmente diferente. En primer lugar, distingue entre la violencia de los opresores y la violencia de respuesta de las masas.

"El mero hecho de poder plantearlo así es un paso gigante hacia delante, lejos de las repugnantes elogios burgueses a la no violencia. A ninguno de ellos se le ocurre demostrar que las masas nunca han dado un verdadero salto adelante con la teoría de la noviolencia. La timidez nunca ha triunfado en la historia. De hecho, los marxistas prefieren los métodos no violentos si los objetivos que buscan las masas -liberarse de la opresión y la explotación- pueden obtenerse de esa manera. Pero el marxismo explica la evolución histórica de la lucha de clases, así como la lucha de las naciones oprimidas contra los opresores." (En workers.org/book/a-marxist-defense)

Del río al mar, ¡Palestina será libre! □